

Get involved

Are you interested in helping UBC-UAEM change the world? We've got lots to do and there are not enough of us to do it, so we would love some help! You can get involved in direct advocacy, policy development, public outreach, research, writing, proofreading, fundraising, chapter administration... all kinds of stuff! Below is a list of our projects and all the ways you could help us out. (The names of team leaders are listed in parentheses.) And of course, if you've got other ideas in addition to these, we'd love to hear them!

Advocacy

At UBC: Maintain contact with UBC administration and the UILO, to ensure follow-through on UBC's commitment to global access, and support the development of more socially-conscious metrics for the UILO. (Mike Gretes)

Nationally: Advocate at the federal level for increased investment in R&D for neglected diseases, global access requirements for technology arising from federal grants, and reform of Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. (Mike Gretes)

Internationally: UAEM members from throughout the organization are involved in the discussions of the WHO's Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property. (Shahla Yekta)

Education and awareness

For the academic community in general

Write articles and editorials for publication in academic journals.

Present at appropriate events like global health conferences, or find opportunities for someone else to present.

For students (Goldis Chami)

Develop course material, from single guest lectures to entire new courses or student-directed seminars, on global health, neglected diseases, access to medicines, and the role of universities. Audiences to target include students in health care, science, economics, business, law, public policy, and more.

Speak at various events for students, or find opportunities for someone else to speak. Upcoming examples: Pharmacy International Week, Global Health Initiative workshops, TerryTalks.

For researchers and grad students at UBC (Lauren Scott)

Put together an educational package explaining UBC's global access principles regarding technologies and drugs developed using university research.

Arrange for UAEMers to give talks at departmental seminars using the educational package in order to reach more researchers and students with the UBC's global access principles.

For the general public: electronic and print media (Agnes Gulbinowicz)

Write regular updates for the web site.

Put together a short film about our work, as a documentary and possible publicity and awareness resource, for posting on YouTube and screening at our events.

Engage with the media: write articles, editorials, or letters to the editor for the popular press, and send out press releases at every opportunity.

Neglected disease projects

Gates proposal: help us develop a funding proposal for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support the training of new scientists in neglected disease research. (Shahla Yekta)

Academic articles: help us develop a paper, intended for eventual publication in a scientific journal, that deals with current efforts in Canada to combat NTDs, looking at the roles of the pharmaceutical industry, government, philanthropic organizations, and universities. (Rebecca Goulding)

Help develop an online community of ND researchers worldwide, to facilitate better communication and sharing of ideas. (Stephanie Gatto)

Recruitment and training (Cecily Morgan-Jonker)

Help staff our booth at AMS Clubs Days and other recruitment opportunities.

Annual Introductory Seminar: help coordinate, advertise for, or speak at our annual workshop aimed at new members. Each fall, we give presentations on the major issues we address and the goals we are trying to achieve. This year, we would like to begin repeating the event in January as well.

Develop educational resources for new members. For example: an annotated bibliography of important articles that cover relevant topics relating to global health, the research and access gaps, and our proposed solutions.

External liaison

With other Canadian UAEM chapters: help support chapter development across Canada, and collaborate with other Canadian chapters to advocate on federal issues – see above. (Mike Gretes)

With other groups on campus: be our liaison to the new Global Issues Community at UBC. This is a project of the Student Development Office that aims to bring together students that work on global issues, so we can learn from each other and collaborate where appropriate. (Andrew Gray)

Fundraising (Cecily Morgan-Jonker)

Apply for grants, or hold fundraising events, to help us put on educational events and travel to conferences.

Internal administration (Andrew Gray)

Secretarial work: record and distribute meeting minutes, and keep online resources up to date (internal and external web sites, calendar).

IT support: improve and maintain public web site, including domain management and e-mail forwarding, manage mailing lists.

Advisory board liaison: write a newsletter every three months, help organize the annual Advisory Board Meeting where we meet to discuss our plans for the year and get their feedback.

Help start the new SFU chapter (Stephanie Gatto)

The SFU chapter is new this year, and the possibilities are limitless!